

**Special Courts Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

February 3, 2007
Minutes

1. Members present. The following members of the committee were present Kenneth Abbott, Randy Coffey, Matthew Cox, Jennifer DeGroote, Glenn Hancock, George Hoffman, Michael Pagano, Russell Sanders, Richard Tandy, and Peggy Quint Lohorn, Chair.
2. Staff present. Michelle C. Goodman provided the Committee with staff assistance.
3. Guest. Judge Thomas Clem, Lilia Judson, Senior Judge John Kellam.
4. Approval of minutes. The Committee approved the minutes from the November 2006 meeting.
5. Court structure discussion. Judge Lohorn provided an overview of the presentation she provided to the Supreme Court in January and that they approved time for a presentation on this project at the District Meetings in March. She also provided feedback from her presentation to the Indiana Judges Association.

Magistrate Pagano reported to the Committee that the Lake County Bench Bar Meeting would be held in April to discuss the findings of Good Government Study conducted by National Center for State Courts. He said that the Committee can have time to make a presentation then also.

The Committee discussed the draft PowerPoint presentation for use at the district meetings. The Committee added: (1) a section to provide examples of how this would effect the courts by comparing the current district to the restructured district, (2) emphasis on the ability of the judges to design the local organization, (3) discuss what the plan will not do (remove autonomy, create special assignments 100 miles away, remove the ability to hire or fire employees), (4) develop response to those who say it doesn't change them much by stressing that the courts will be responsible for its own structure in the future. The Committee also selected the charts regarding revenues and expenses to be placed in the presentation. The Committee also requested a mechanism for feedback on this project. Some suggestions included a web page to post information. Staff was requested to facilitate method for receiving feedback from the district meeting participants.

6. 2007 meeting schedule. The Committee selected the following meeting dates for 2007:

Friday, May 11, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)

Friday, August 24, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)

Friday, November 2, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)

All meetings will be held at the Indiana Judicial Center. The Committee also agreed that additional meetings may need to be scheduled depending on the development of proposals on the court structure project.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle C. Goodman
Staff Attorney